

REMARKS

The Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the comments set forth in the Office Action mailed January 5, 2007. The recognition of allowable subject matter in claims 2-17, 19 and 21 is noted with appreciation. Additionally, the error with regard to the assertion made in the previous amendment that claim 20 had been placed in independent form including all of the subject matter of its respective base claim and any intervening claims, which was noted by the Office Action, is deeply regretted. The amendments included herewith return claim 20 to dependent form to depend from allowed claim 19. Accordingly, the application is in condition for allowance.

The Office Action

In the Office Action mailed January 5, 2007:

claims 2-17, 19 and 21 were allowed; and

claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over what the Office Action characterizes as Applicants' admitted prior art in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,453,162 to Gentry.

The Claims are not Obvious

Claim 19 has been found to be allowable. **Claim 20** has been amended to depend from **claim 19**. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that **claim 20** is not anticipated and is not obvious.

Telephone Interview

In the interests of advancing this application to issue the Applicant(s) respectfully request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to discuss the foregoing or any suggestions that the Examiner may have to place the case in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Claims 2-17 and 19-21 remain in the application. **Claims 2-17, 19 and 21** have been allowed. **Claim 20** has been amended to depend from **claim 19**. For at least the foregoing reasons, the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early indication thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 22, 2007
Date

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being

- ☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail, addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.
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